

The Inupiat people of northern Alaska have engaged in environmentally responsible whaling practices for thousands of years, with no international supervision. They were forced to stand and watch as the great whales were decimated.

Alaska's Inupiat people responded positively to the conservation goals of the International Commission, forming their own organization, the Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission, which has participated wholeheartedly in International Commission meetings. The Alaska Commission has also put significant assets and effort toward research and monitoring that has proven conclusively that current Alaskan whaling poses no danger to the stocks of bowhead whales that are its target species.

Whaling is more important to the communities of northern Alaska than most can possibly understand. It provides a critical element of their diet, a major staple for their survival. But beyond that, it is a custom that is deeply ingrained in the culture of the Inupiat people.

Becoming a whaling captain is one of the greatest honors possible, and carries with it great responsibility. Whaling captains provide gear and supplies for their crews at significant cost, yet when a whale is taken, they receive no compensation other than the knowledge of a job well done, for which they are not even allowed to deduct their costs as charitable contributions. It is a job that is important not only to the whalers themselves, but to every resident of the whaling communities, where their catch is shared between young and old alike.

But that long history and honorable practice suffered a serious blow at the recent International Whaling Commission meeting in Shimoneseki, Japan. Nations promoting the resumption of commercial whaling, led by Japan itself, engineered a vote to reject the proposed renewal of quotas for Eskimo whaling.

It is clear from a statement released by the Japanese Fisheries Agency on May 24 that this action was taken solely to retaliate against the United States for our opposition to the resumption of commercial whaling, specifically our rejection of a small quota of Minke whales for four coastal villages. There is a word for such an action, and that word is "spiteful."

This is not the way international negotiations should be conducted.

Alaska's aboriginal whaling has nothing to do with commercial whaling, and everything to do with honoring a way of life that has come to be synonymous with survival for Alaska's Inupiat people.

It is not that I lack sympathy for the Japanese people, or the long history of whaling that is part of the culture of those four Japanese coastal villages. I happen to believe that history also should be honored, and I hope that an agreeable solution to the current di-

lemma will be developed in the near future.

Nor can I suggest that this development was a complete surprise. Japan has long sought the resumption of commercial whaling, which is, in fact, the stated purpose of the International Whaling Commission. It has long warned that some form of retaliation might result from our continued opposition in the face of scientific evidence that some whale populations, such as the Minke whales sought by the coastal villages, have fully recovered and could support the resumption of whaling.

Japan complains that the U.S. is being "unfair." How could anything be more unfair than the action Japan has orchestrated against Alaska's Inupiat people?

I repeat, that this is not how international negotiations should be conducted. Targeting Alaska's Inupiat whaling is not justified and can only serve to further alienate even those who might be sympathetic to the Japanese villages.

The resolution I am introducing today condemns this unwarranted development, and calls on U.S. authorities to do everything in their power to ensure that aboriginal subsistence whaling in Alaska is allowed to continue under the same carefully crafted and scientifically justified system that currently guides it. I understand the various executive branch agencies with an interest in this issue are already engaged in doing just that, and they deserve our enthusiastic support.

SENATE RESOLUTION 286—COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING THE LOS ANGELES LAKERS FOR THEIR OUTSTANDING DRIVE, DISCIPLINE, AND MASTERY IN WINNING THE 2002 NATIONAL BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION CHAMPIONSHIP

Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself and Mrs. BOXER) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 286

Whereas the Los Angeles Lakers are 1 of the greatest sports franchises in history;

Whereas the Laker organization has won 14 National Basketball Association Championships;

Whereas the Los Angeles Lakers are only the fifth team to win 3 consecutive National Basketball Association Championships and the seventh team to sweep the finals 4 games to none;

Whereas the Laker organization has fielded such legendary superstars as George Mikan, Wilt Chamberlain, Jerry West, Elgin Baylor, Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Earvin "Magic" Johnson, and now, Shaquille O'Neal and Kobe Bryant;

Whereas Shaquille O'Neal won his third straight National Basketball Association Finals Most Valuable Player award, joining Michael Jordan as the only player to win 3 consecutive awards;

Whereas Shaquille O'Neal scored a record 145 points in the 2002 4-game finals series;

Whereas Shaquille O'Neal's 59.5 percent career field goal percentage in National Bas-

ketball Association Finals games is number 1 all-time and his 34.2 point scoring average ranks second;

Whereas Kobe Bryant was named to the 2001-2002 All-National Basketball Association First Team after averaging 25.5 points per game, 5.5 rebounds per game, and 5.5 assists per game during the regular season;

Whereas Kobe Bryant averaged 26.8 points, 5.8 rebounds, and 5.3 assists during the 2002 National Basketball Association Finals;

Whereas Coach Phil Jackson won his ninth National Basketball Association title, tying the record of legendary Boston Celtics coach, Red Auerbach;

Whereas Coach Phil Jackson won his 156th postseason game, surpassing former Lakers Coach Pat Riley to become the winningest playoff coach in National Basketball Association history;

Whereas the Los Angeles Lakers epitomize the spirit of their hometown with their determination, heart, stamina, and amazing comeback ability;

Whereas the support of all the Los Angeles fans and the people of California propelled the Los Angeles Lakers to another National Basketball Association Championship; and

Whereas the Los Angeles Lakers are poised to win a fourth straight National Basketball Association Championship next season: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate commends and congratulates the Los Angeles Lakers on winning the 2002 National Basketball Association Championship Title.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 121—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS THAT THERE SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED A NATIONAL HEALTH CENTER WEEK FOR THE WEEK BEGINNING ON AUGUST 18, 2002, TO RAISE AWARENESS OF HEALTH SERVICES PROVIDED BY COMMUNITY, MIGRANT, PUBLIC HOUSING, AND HOMELESS HEALTH CENTERS

Mr. HUTCHINSON (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. BOND, and Mr. HOLLINGS) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. CON. RES. 121

Whereas community, migrant, public housing, and homeless health centers (referred to in this concurrent resolution as "health centers") are nonprofit, community-owned and community-operated health providers and are vital to the Nation's communities;

Whereas there are more than 1,000 health centers serving 12,000,000 people at more than 4,000 health delivery sites, spanning urban and rural communities in all 50 States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Virgin Islands;

Whereas health centers have provided cost-effective, quality health care to the Nation's poor and medically underserved (including the working poor, the uninsured, and many high-risk and vulnerable populations), acting as a vital safety net in the Nation's health delivery system, meeting escalating health needs, and reducing health disparities;

Whereas health centers provide care to 1 of every 9 uninsured Americans, 1 of every 8 low-income Americans, and 1 of every 10 rural Americans, and without health centers these Americans would otherwise lack access to health care;

Whereas health centers and other innovative programs in primary and preventive